(d) and (e) As per norms and policy, the doors and windows are painted once in three years or change of tenancy whichever is earlier as against once in two years or change of tenancy in respect of white washing. The stains of white wash or paint (either on the floors or dooors/ windows) are removed forthwith by the executing agency on the same day.

Metro Rail connecting NOIDA

521. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to connect Indirapuram and Sector 62, NOIDA in Uttar Pradesh with Anand Vihar by metro rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Urban transport is a state subject and as such it is for the concerned State Government to propose for appropriate mass transit system based on cost benefit analysis, traffic demand etc. No proposal of Government of Uttar Pradesh for metro connectivity to Indirapuram and Sector-62, NOIDA has been received by Government of India.

Funding for Metro Rail Projects

522. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is considering a increase in grants through viability gap funding for upcoming metro rail projects;

(b) if so, the percentage hike of viability gap funding and which of the upcoming metro projects are eligible for such Central assistance;

(c) whether any mechanism has been finalized/put in place to recover the funding from States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the existing 'scheme of financial support to Public Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure' of Ministry of Finance, 20% of the project cost of a project being executed in the PPP route is permissible in the form of capital grant at the stage of project construction as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from Ministry of Finance and balance VGF upto further 20% of the project cost can be provided by the sponsoring Ministry/State Government/statutory authority, that owns the project, out of its Budget. The proposal for GOI providing additional 10% Viability Gap support under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission Beyond 20% by Ministry of Finance is under Inter-Ministerial consideration. Mumbai and Hyderabad projects fall under this category.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Since VGF is in the form of grant, question of recovery of grant does not arise.

Sky Bus System

523. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state.:

(a) whether Union Government have set up a Committee to examine the techno-economic and financial feasibility of the Sky Bus Metro system in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken so far by the Union Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee was set up by this Ministry under the Chairmanship of Dr. RV. Indiresan, Retd. Director, UT Chennai to evaluate the Sky Bus System and examine its feasibility and techno-economic aspect. The Committee has submitted its report in August, 2005.

(c) The Committee has treated Sky Bus System as a technology development project rather than finished technology. The Committee, recommended extension of this project as technology development project not merely because of its novelty but also because of possibility of incidental technological benefits that may accrue to the nation through the processes developed in designing and producing the system.

(d) The Ministry of Railways has appointed a technical advisory group with ten eminent members to evaluate the novel system and guide for further development of further technology.